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STATEMENT BY THE AAJA ON THE ARREST OF TWO CHINESE JOURNALISTS BY THE COUP-D'ETAT BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES

The urgent attention of the Secretariat of the Asian-African Journalists' Association, has been drawn to the apprehension by the Brazilian coup-d'etat authorities in Rio-de-Janeiro on April 3rd of Wang Wei Chen correspondent of Hsin Hua News Agency in Brazil and his assistent Chu Ching-tung. They have remained in custody since. Our attention has also been drawn to the fact that both Wang Wei Chen and Chu Ching-tung have been in Brazil with legal residence certificates granted by the Brazilian Government for more than two years and have been engaged in normal news reporting.

The Brazilian coup-d'etat authorities have refused to release them, make known to the world their present conditions, or give any reasons as to why they have been arrested.

The Secretariat of the A.A.J.A. emphatically asserts that this a gross violation of international law, civil rights and principle of freedom of the Press.

We urgently requests the Brazilian authorities, in the interests of justice and Afro-Asian Journalists and Brazilian Journalists solidarity to release Wang Wei Chen and Chu Ching-tung immediately and protect their personal safety.

We call on all our 48 members and member union to condemn this uncalled for action, which can only serve the interests of the imperialists and impair Afro-Asian Brazilian Journalists solidarity, and to demand the immediate release of the two journalists.

We further urge our Brazilian Journalists colleagues in paticular, and our Latin-American journalists colleagues in general, to exert all pressure to secure the release of the two journalists.

The Secretariat has sent telegrams to the Brazilian [illegible]s authorities, and the Brazilian Journalists' Association in Rio de - Janeiro.

A copy of the statement and telegram was delivered to the Brazilian Embassador in Djakarta.-

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